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HIS MAJESTIES MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH To both Houses of PARLIAMENT.

Thurſday, October 21. 1680.

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My Lords and Gentle-men,

THE ſeveral Prorogations I have made, have been very Advantagious to Our Neighbours, and very Uſeful to Me: For I have imployed that time in making and perfecting an Alliance with the Crown of *Spain*, ſuitable to that I had before made with the States General of the *United Provinces*, and they alſo had with *Spain*, conſiſting of mutual Obligations of Succour and Defence: I have all the reaſon in the World to believe, that what was ſo much deſired by former Parliaments, muſt needs be very grateful to you now; for though ſome perhaps may wiſh, thoſe Meaſures had been taken ſooner, yet no Man can with Reaſon think, that it is now too late; for they who deſire to make thoſe, and they who deſire to break them, ſhow themſelves to be of another Opinion.

And as Theſe are the beſt Meaſures that could be taken, for the Safety of *England*, and the Repoſe of CHRISTENDOM, ſo they cannot Fail of their End; And to Spread and Improve Themſelves farther; if Our Diviſions at Home, do not render Our Friendſhip leſs Conſiderable Abroad.

To prevent Theſe as much as may be, I think fit, to Renew to You, all thoſe Aſſurances which can be Deſired, that Nothing ſhall be wanting on My Part, to give You the fulleſt Satisfaction Your hearts can wiſh, for the Security of the Proteſtant Religion, which I am fully Reſolved to Maintain againſt all the Conſpiracies of Our Enemies; and to Concur with You in any Thing which ſhall be Propoſed, that may Conſiſt with the Preſerving the Succeſſion of the Crown, in its Right and Legal Courſe of Deſcent.

And in Order to this, I do Recommend it to You, to Purſue the Farther Examination of the Plot, with a Strict and Impartial Enquiry. I do not think My Self ſafe, nor You neither, till that Matter be gone Through-with: And therefore it will be Neceſſary, that the Lords in the Tower may be brought to a Speedy Tryal, that Juſtice may be done.

I need not tell you what Danger the City of *Tangier* is in; Nor of what Importance it is to Us to Preſerve.

I Have with a Mighty Charge and Expence, ſent a very Conſiderable Relief thither; But conſtantly to Maintain ſo great a Force as that War will require, and to make theſe New-Works, and Fortifications; without which the Place will not long be Tenable, Amounts to ſo vaſt a Sum, that without Your Support, it will be Impoſſible for me to undergo it. Therefore, I lay the Matter Plainly before You, and deſire your Advice and Aſſiſtance. But that which I value above all the Treaſures in the World, and which I am ſure, will give Me greater Strength and Reputation, both Home and Abroad, then a Treaſure can do, is a perfect Union amongſt Our Selves. Nothing but this can reſtore the Kingdom to that Strength and Vigor which it ſeems to have loſt, and raiſe Us again to that Conſideration which *England* hath uſually had. All EUROPE hath their Eyes upon this Aſſembly, and think their Own Happineſs, or Miſery, as well as Our's, will depend upon it.

If We then be ſo unhappy, as to fall into ſuch a Miſunderſtanding amongſt Our Selves, as would render Our Friendſhip unſafe to truſt to, it will not be to be wondered at, if Our Neighbours ſhould begin to take Reſolutions, and perhaps ſuch as may be Fatal to Us.

Let Us therefore take care, that we do not Gratifie Our Enemies, and diſcourage our Friend, by any unſeaſonable Diſputes.

If any ſuch do Happen, the World will ſee it was no fault of Mine; For I have done all that was poſſible for Me to do, to keep You in Peace while I live, and leave you ſo when I Dye.

But from ſo great Prudence, and ſo good Affections as Yours, I can fear nothing of this kind; But do Rely upon You all, that You would uſe your beſt Endeavours to bring this Parliament to a good and happy Concluſion.

CHARLES REX.

FINIS.